



MEDIA ALERT/PRESS RELEASE

Connecticut River Watershed Council, Inc.

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(413) 772-2020

HOLD FOR RELEASE AT 3:00 PM, OCTOBER 18, 2004

Contacts: Andrea Donlon, Connecticut River Watershed Council (413-772-2020 ext. 205)
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MEDIA EVENT: 3:00 pm, OCTOBER 18, 2004 AT MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

Subject: Eels in Stoney Brook to be Given a Lift at Mt. Holyoke College

South Hadley, MA – A new eelway will be unveiled on the Mount Holyoke College campus on October 18, 2004 at 3:00 PM. The eelway allows passage for migratory and resident eels over a dam on Stoney Brook in South Hadley on the Mount Holyoke College campus. You are invited to attend this media event. At the site, representatives from the Mount Holyoke College Center for the Environment, the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be on hand to explain how the eelway was constructed and how it works.

The eelway has a short portable ramp that leads to a trap box on the west side of Mount Holyoke College Dam #1. Mount Holyoke College students will transport eels from the trap box to <Thomas Millette: where?>. The eelway ramp will be installed each spring and operated throughout the summer when the eels migrate, then removed and stored during the winter. <Thomas Millette – feel free to modify this paragraph, and incorporate a quote from you about how the eelway will work, design etc. Also mention something about the dam’s location along an educational trail??>

“This project is the first of what will hopefully be several eel projects on Stoney Brook, a stream with excellent eel habitat,” noted Andrea Donlon, CRWC’s River Steward. “Eels are a fascinating species and are an important part of our ecosystem. Unfortunately, their numbers are mysteriously declining in North America. Although several factors may be affecting their population, much of their habitat is restricted by dams. We are working to get more eelways installed on dams throughout the Connecticut River watershed.”

The eelway was partially funded by the CRWC through a grant with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). <Jim Turek: Quote from NOAA about grant, your efforts, and/or our partnership.>

The Watershed Council is a nonprofit membership organization that has been working for over 50 years to protect and restore the natural resources of the Connecticut River watershed. Through their Fisheries Restoration Program, they have worked on improving fish habitat by coordinating the installation of fishways, replacing culverts, and altering or removing dams. For more information, contact Andrea Donlon at CRWC at (413) 772-2020 ext. 205 or adonlon@ctriver.org.

Directions to the Mt. Holyoke College Center for the Environment (meeting place): *From the north:* Take 47 south to South Hadley. Just before you reach the center of town you will see Village Commons on your right. When you come to the fork, bear left. At stop, go straight through, down hill, take a right on Lower Lake Rd. *From the south:* Take Route 116 to the center of South Hadley. When you see the Village Commons on your left, take a right onto Church St. Go down the hill and take a right on Lower Lake Rd.

Park anywhere in front of the greenhouse. Rose Ryan will have day permits for whoever needs them for parking. The Center for the Environment is located on the south end of Talcott Greenhouse facing the Art Museum. Rose Ryan's office is in the little building at the south end of greenhouse facing the Art Museum.